

Application for Undergraduate Research Assistantship

The School of Communication both welcomes and encourages undergraduate student involvement in the research programs of faculty and graduate students by serving as undergraduate research assistants. Research assistants play a vital role in the research of any university, by helping with data collection and analysis, computer programming, library research, and writing of research reports for presentation and conferences and for publication. Undergraduates in the social sciences with research experience (especially in the form of an undergraduate thesis) and who meet other entry requirements are often highly sought out by graduate schools, including the graduate program in Communication at Ohio State. People with research skills are also sought out in industry and the corporate world. Thus, serving as a research assistant can give you a competitive advantage in your quest for furthering your education in the social sciences or obtaining employment upon graduation. Because there is no such thing as too much experience, we especially encourage students to get involved early in their education, **at least** a year before graduation.

Most undergraduate research assistants participate in the research process for little or no compensation simply because they find it interesting and a valuable experience. However, we do offer opportunities to serve as a research assistant for communication course credit (as COMM 699). If you are interested in receiving course credit, you should so indicate your interest on the application. Paid research assistantships are rare.

Once you complete the application and turn it into Susan Van Pelt in Derby 3033D, it will be forwarded to the chair of the research committee, who will attempt to find a match between your interests and skills as described in the application and the needs of the faculty in the school. The need for undergraduate research assistants varies from quarter to quarter, and our ability to place you with a faculty or graduate student is not guaranteed, nor will it necessarily occur right away. Furthermore, the selection process is competitive, and not all applicants will be able to get placed into a research assistantship. Your application will be kept on file for a year from receipt, in the event a space opens up and your qualifications and interests match the needs of one of the researchers in the School as those needs evolve.

If possible, we strongly encourage you to speak to specific faculty members whose interests match your own. Please note in the application if you have spoken to a faculty member about serving as their research assistant. Information about the research areas of the faculty can be found on faculty home pages on the web. Point your browser to <http://www.comm.ohio-state.edu/>.

If you have any questions about this process, you can email the chair of the research committee, Associate Professor Silvia Knobloch-Westerwick at knobloch-westerw.1@osu.edu.

When you have completed this form, please return to the
School of Communication undergraduate advising office, located in Derby 3033-D

School of Communication
Application for Undergraduate Research Assistantship

Name _____ Email address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Major: _____

Cumulative GPA for all required courses in your major: _____

Overall cumulative GPA both in and outside of your major: _____

How many credits have you completed at OSU?: _____

Check below which of the courses below you have taken and the grade received:

_____ COMM 460/460H (Communication Research Methods)	Grade: _____
_____ COMM 463 (Communication Industry Research Methods)	Grade: _____
_____ COMM 650 (Investigating Communication Through Technology)	Grade: _____
_____ COMM 672 (Qualitative Interviewing)	Grade: _____

Are you an Honor student? (circle) Yes No

Are you thinking about going to graduate school in the field of communication or another social science? (circle) Yes No Unsure

(Optional) Please list one to two faculty, graduate student, or staff references, preferably within the School of Communication.

Name	Dept or School	Email
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

If you have already spoken to a member of the faculty about serving as his or her research assistant, please indicate the faculty member you have spoken to below:

What subject area in the field of communication most interests you? That is, if you were to be selected as an undergraduate research assistant, what topic areas would you be most interested in working in?

Are you interested in a research assistantship in exchange for... (check all that apply)

_____ research course credit (in COMM 699)

_____ financial compensation (note: opportunities for financial compensation are rare)

_____ no compensation is needed. I just want to get involved.

If you selected COMM 699 credit above, how many credits would you prefer? (check any that apply)

_____ 1 credit hour, for an average of 3 hrs/week, a total of 30 hours for the quarter.

_____ 2 credit hours, for an average of 6 hrs/week, a total of 60 hours for the quarter.

_____ 3 credit hours for an average of 9 hrs/week, a total of 90 hours for the quarter.

_____ 4 credit hours for an average of 12hrs/week, a total of 120 hours for the quarter

_____ 5 credit hours for an average of 15hrs/week, a total of 150 hours for the quarter

If you selected "financial compensation" or "no compensation needed" above, when are you available to start working as a research assistant?

Do you plan to have a job (or volunteer position) while you are serving as an RA? If so, how many hours a week do you expect will you be working on average at that position?

Have you previously been involved in conducting research? (The research does not need to be social scientific research.) If so, please describe briefly.

Please explain briefly why you are interested in being involved in research in the School of Communication? What do you hope to get out of this experience? How will serving as a Research Assistant in the School of Communication help you?

What skills do you currently have that you believe would make you a good research assistant? Such skills could include knowledge of particular software (Word, SPSS, Excel, other data analysis programs), fluency in certain computer programming languages, web page design, strong organizational skills, and so forth.

By signing below, you are authorizing the undergraduate advising office to circulate this application and all your responses among the faculty in the School of Communication in an attempt to match your interests and skills to the needs of the faculty.

Name (Print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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